

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Automobile Parts Prices and Traffic Regulations, Harbin	DATE DISTR.	15 May 1954
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1. As of mid-1953, the prices of certain automobile parts in Harbin were as follows:
 - 1) locally manufactured battery, with a six months guarantee -- JMP 1,000,000;
 - 2) locally manufactured set of 16 piston rings of acceptable quality -- JMP 350,000; 3) locally manufactured transmission belt, each -- JMP 45,000;
 - 4) United States or Soviet manufactured spark plug, each -- JMP 150,000.
2. Tires manufactured in China give approximately half the mileage that a Soviet made tire gives. While ball bearings are difficult to obtain, there is no known case of a car being idle for lack of bearings. Copper and asbestos packings are produced locally.
3. In Harbin the speed limit is 25 kilometers per hour. Smoking while driving is forbidden. Traffic violations are entered on the driver's license. This license is withdrawn after three violations and the driver must wait a year before applying for a new license.
4. Taxicab license plates are blue with white lettering, while government cars, including the police, have red license plates with white lettering. License plates of commercial vehicles are yellow with white lettering. Privately owned motorcycles have blue plates.

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